

# Building Compassionate Social Systems

Learn how Restorative Circles are transforming lives and promoting peace in Brazil, and consider applications for building restorative communities in Vermont.



Join us for an evening with Dominic Barter to discuss his pioneering work in Brazilian schools, courts and shantytowns—some of the world’s toughest social environments—and the applications for Restorative Justice programs in our community. Guided by the principles of Nonviolent Communication, Barter uses “Restorative Circles” to address a wide variety of challenging social problems. Circles offer ways for individuals and communities to establish connection, discover meaning and promote a culture of peace by creating a forum for uncovering the human motives behind painful choices and enlisting the community to find effective strategies to promote responsibility and healing. As an ethical basis for facilitating change in challenging contexts, Nonviolent Communication is increasingly recognized by teachers, mediators, social activists and others as a key skill in the creation of more life-serving social systems.

**Where:** Kellogg-Hubbard Library  
Montpelier, Vermont

**When:** March 23, 2009  
6:30-8:00 pm

*Dominic Barter has studied the interface between societal and personal change, and the role of conflict, since the 1980s. Since 2004 he has worked as consultant and training program director for the Brazilian Restorative Justice pilot projects to address youth crime and its consequences, in collaboration with the UN Development Program, UNESCO, the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Special Secretariat for Human Rights. Dominic coordinates the Restorative Justice Project for the International Center for Nonviolent Communication.*



Sponsored by The Montpelier Community Justice Center & The Kellogg-Hubbard Library  
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